

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2513 (Petrie-Norris)

As Amended August 21, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Amends various state grant programs to authorize administering agencies to directly award regional landscape grants to regional entities.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Remove a requirement that the director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), in collaboration with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, establish guidelines for funding regional landscape grants.
- 2) Extend the authorization for CAL FIRE to award advance payments from grants awarded pursuant to its local assistance grant program indefinitely.
- 3) Double-joint the bill with AB 1699 (Rogers) to prevent chaptering out amendments to Public Resources Code 4799.05.

COMMENTS

Pursuant to AB 9 (Wood), Chapter 225, Statutes of 2021, the Department of Conservation (DOC) launched the RFFC program to build the capacity of regional collaboratives through a common framework of regional forest and community resilience plans. Through Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program, the Department of Conservation (DOC) provides block grants to regional entities to develop regional strategies that develop governance structures, identify wildfire risks, foster collaboration, and prioritize and implement projects within the region to achieve the goals of the program. Block grants are used by recipients to support partner capacity, project readiness, implementation of demonstration projects, and regional priority planning to achieve landscape-level and community wildfire resilience consistent with the Action Plan as well as the California Forest Carbon Plan and Executive Order B-52-18.

Regional block grantees are expected to partner extensively across their region to identify priorities and develop projects. Current block grantees partner heavily with state, federal, tribal, and local governments as well as water agencies, resource conservation districts, fire safe councils, and other nonprofits.

AB 2513 amends three existing grant programs, including CAL FIRE's local assistance grant program for fire prevention and home hardening education activities, the RFFC Program, and CAL FIRE's Forest Health Grants, to explicitly authorize regional landscape grants to be awarded directly to regional entities with regional priority strategies developed pursuant to the RFFC Program, and creates a new grant program for that same purpose at Wildfire Conservation Board (WCB).

For the WCB and RFFC grants, the bill requires the administering state entities to coordinate with the Task Force to establish grant guidelines consistent with the goals of the Action Plan.

According to the Author

AB 2513 addresses two critical gaps in our efforts to achieve the goals of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. First, the bill ensures that [RRFC] grantors can distribute funds for wildfire mitigation projects in the flammable shrubland ecosystems typical of Southern California, reflecting the full range of ecosystems at risk of catastrophic wildfire across the state. Second, AB 2513 increases the pace and scale of grant distribution by authorizing the DOC and the WCB to distribute regional landscape grants to local entities.

Arguments in Support

Save the Redwoods League writes that for decades, state wildfire policy and funding structures have focused primarily on forested ecosystems and competitive, project-by-project grants. By expanding the eligibility for forest health activities and incorporating clear statutory definitions, such as "ignition prevention," into the California Public Resources Code, this legislation helps ensure that critical risk-reduction activities across all California environments can be appropriately authorized, funded, and implemented. This clarification marks an important step toward a more regionally responsive and ecologically grounded approach to wildfire resilience.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) Cost pressure of an unknown but potentially significant amount (General Fund, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [GGRF], or bond funds) for DOC to directly award regional landscape grants to regional entities to implement regional priority strategies developed pursuant to the RFFC. (See staff comments for more information on cost pressures.)
- 2) Cost pressure of an unknown amount (General Fund, GGRF, or bond funds) for the WCB to award regional landscape grants to regional entities to implement regional priority strategies developed pursuant to the RFFC program.
- 3) Cost pressure of an unknown but potentially significant amount (General Fund, GGRF, or bond funds) for CAL FIRE to fund the additional project types made eligible under its local assistance and forest health grant programs as a result of this bill, in addition to currently eligible project types.
- 4) The Air Resources Board estimates ongoing costs of \$391,000 annually (GGRF) to review and update quantification methodologies, calculator tools, and reporting templates for fire prevention and forest health programs; update online resources and guidance documents to reflect expanded eligibility criteria; and update outreach and engagement materials and strategy; among other things.
- 5) The State Water Board estimates ongoing costs of approximately \$2 million annually (Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund) to coordinate with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, WCB, DOC, and CAL FIRE to develop guidelines for funding regional landscape grants; conduct increased inspections, oversight, and enforcement for these projects; and develop new individual or general Waste Discharge Requirements to permit these projects.

VOTES:**ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 14-0-0**

YES: Bryan, Ellis, Alanis, Connolly, Garcia, Haney, Hoover, Kalra, Macedo, Boerner, Pellerin, Schultz, Wicks, Zbur

ASM WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE: 13-0-0

YES: Papan, Jeff Gonzalez, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Boerner, Caloza, Gallagher, Hart, Muratsuchi, Rogers

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0-2

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

UPDATED

VERSION: August 21, 2026

CONSULTANT: Paige Brokaw / NAT. RES. / (916) 319-2092

FN: 0004000